

**Defund SPD: Our movement demands the remaining 2020 Seattle Police budget be cut 50%, and invested in Black and Brown working-class communities. On Friday, I will be introducing budget amendments to do just that, and I urge other councilmembers to join me.**

*Press conference*

*July 30, 2020*



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 3

**COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT**



# The bloated Seattle Police Department budget

- \$409 million this year
- Fully 27% of the City's entire discretionary budget
- More than what the City spends on human services (including eldercare and homeless services), affordable housing, neighborhoods, and arts and culture *combined*
- Nearly double the Fire Department's budget

Source:

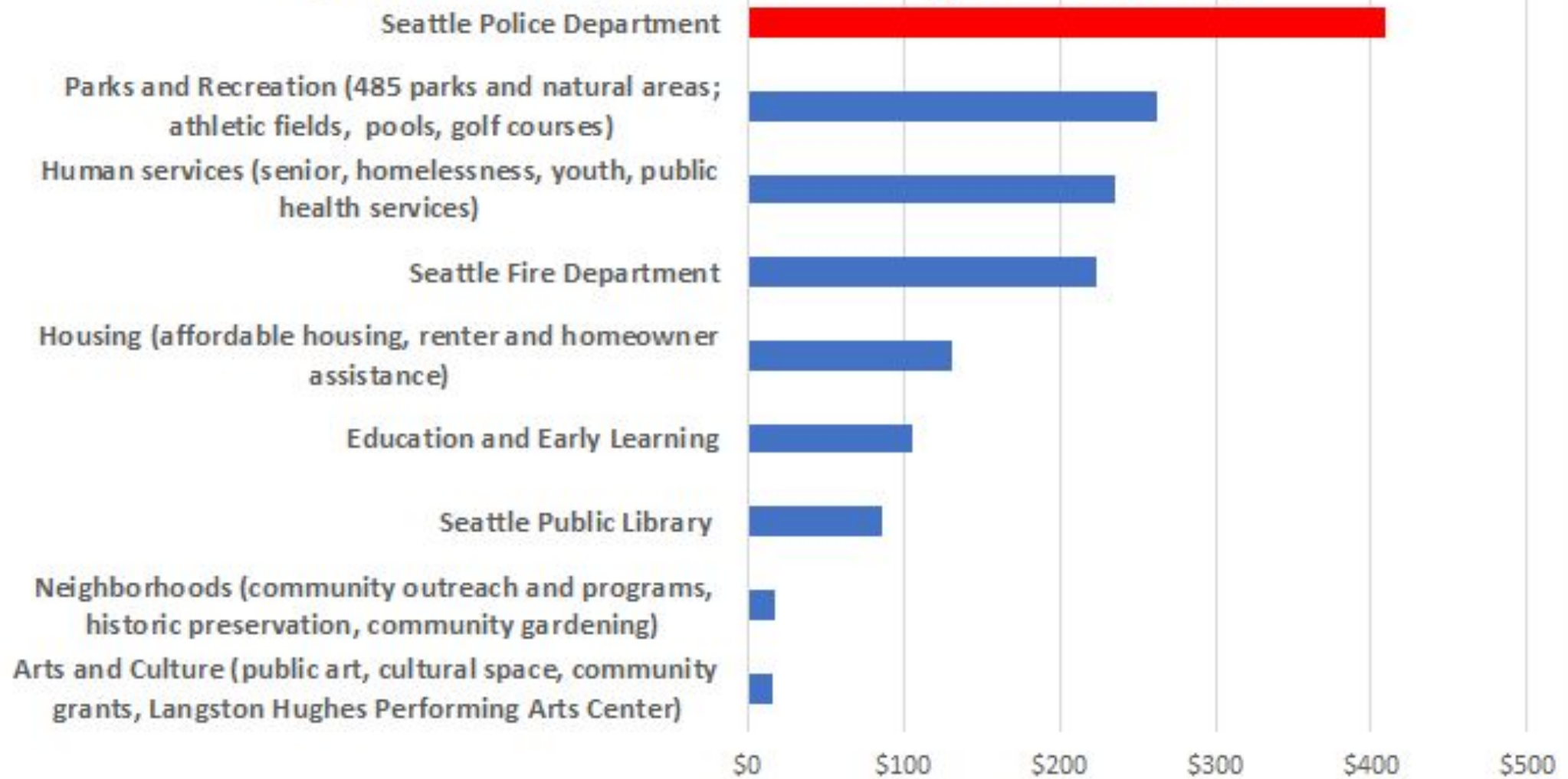
[https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/FinanceDepartment/20adoptedbudget/Charts\\_and\\_Tables.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/FinanceDepartment/20adoptedbudget/Charts_and_Tables.pdf)



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## The bloated police budget far exceeds what the City spends on key social needs (\$ in millions)

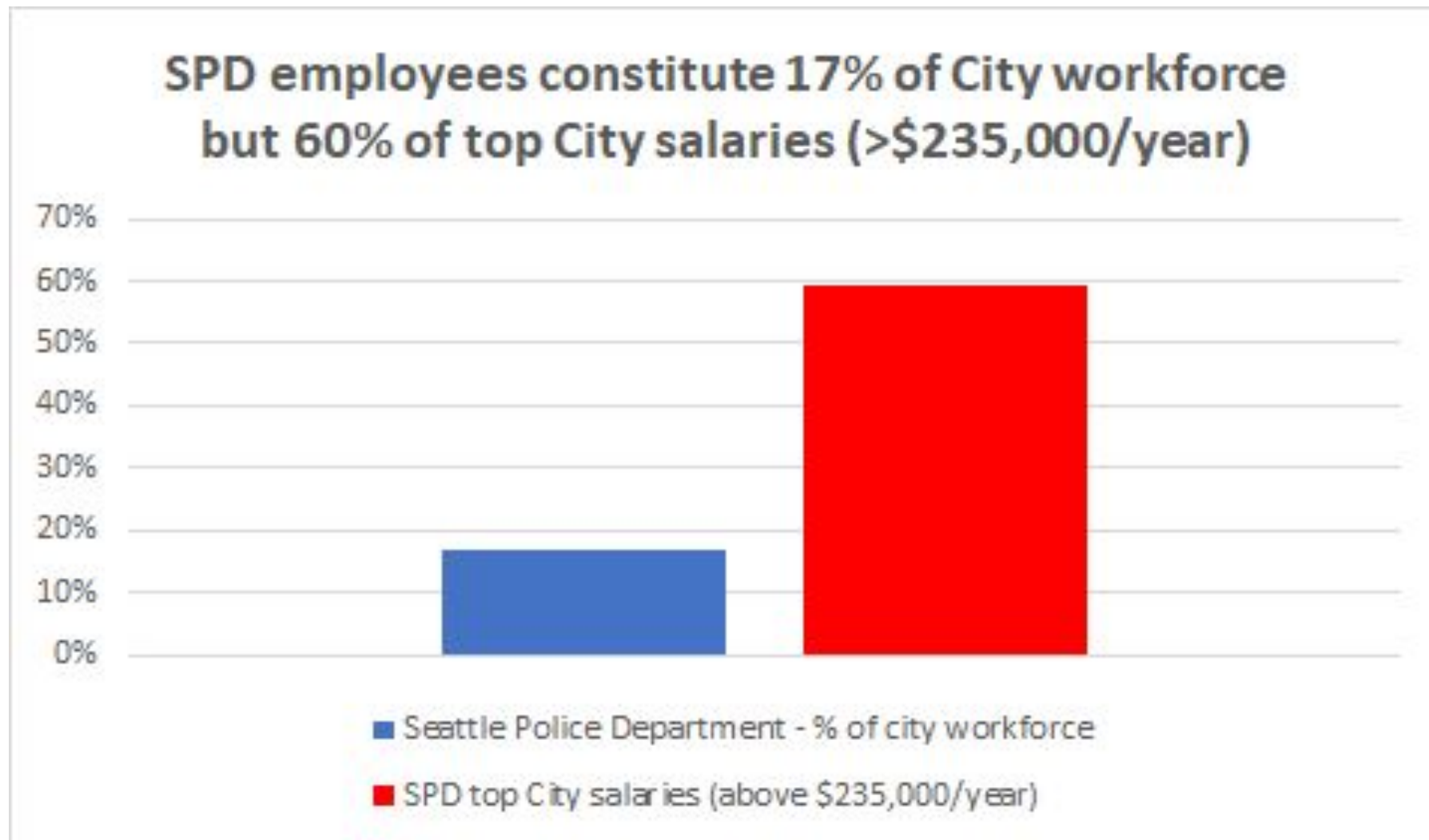


Source: [https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/FinanceDepartment/20adoptedbudget/Charts\\_and\\_Tables.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/FinanceDepartment/20adoptedbudget/Charts_and_Tables.pdf)



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**119 out of 200 top-paid City of Seattle executives/employees are in SPD. Almost exclusively police officers, sergeants, and lieutenants, they were paid an average of \$268,000 last year.**

Source: <https://www.openthebooks.com/members/employer-detail/?Id=3227&tab=1>



## •How much is a 50% Defund this year (2020)?

- Total 2020 police department budget: \$409 million
- Budget for Aug-Dec (5 months left in 2020): \$170 million
- 50% of that: **\$85 million to defund**

## •For the remainder of 2020:

- Seattle City Council should put \$85 million into affordable housing, services in Black and Brown working-class communities, renter organizing and eviction defense, youth programming, alternatives to repressive policing.
- City Council should Stop the Sweeps of homeless neighbors.
- SPD would have \$85 million left, which is still nearly 5 times the City's entire-year funds for immigrants and refugees, enforcing labor standards, and civil rights **combined**.





# **Our amendment: Defund SPD by \$85 million for the rest of 2020**

- **\$16 million promised by Mayor**
  - Restricting overtime; limiting training, new equipment
- **\$69 million in additional defunding**
  - Across-the-board reductions in patrols and other operations
  - Entirely eliminate the SPD sweeps program (aka “Navigation Team”)





# Our amendment: Fund \$85 million for community needs in 2020

<b>Fund Black and Brown restorative justice and other community programs</b>	<b>\$15.5 million</b>
<b>Support Black and Brown community groups develop alternative public safety models</b>	<b>\$3 million</b>
<b>Renter organizing and eviction defense</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>
<b>Fund Green New Deal Oversight Board (budgeted in 2020 but frozen by Mayor)</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>
<b>Fund affordable working-class housing in communities that have faced displacement/gentrification</b>	<b>\$34.7 million</b>
<b>Fund currently unfunded City services (backfill City deficit)</b>	<b>\$16.3 million</b>
<b>Move 9-1-1 call center out of SPD and into civilian control</b>	<b>\$14.7 million</b>





# It will take a powerful movement to win

- The political establishment, big business, and the police will fight back – hard. Politicians will say this simply can't be done.
- We showed in the Amazon Tax fight that we can win – but only if we organize and build a powerful, fighting movement.
- Here in Seattle and around the country, young Black and Brown activists and young workers are leading the struggle to defund the police and invest in housing, healthcare, education, and programs in communities of color.



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